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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,614	01/05/2004	Terrance W. Oliver	1482/132(d)	2429
7590	09/22/2004		EXAMINER	
Leslie S. Garmaise, Esq. Dorr, Carson, Sloan, Birney & Kramer, P.C. 3010 East 5th Avenue Denver, CO 80206			HESS, DANIEL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2876	

DATE MAILED: 09/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/751,614

Applicant(s)

OLIVER, TERRANCE W.

Examiner

Daniel A Hess

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 21-40 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 21-26 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 27 and 30-40 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 28 and 29 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 January 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

Acknowledgement is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on a series of continuations going back to 60/061,297 filed 10/7/1997.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 27 and 30-40 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rendleman et al. (US 5,166,502) in view of Busch et al. (US 6,059,659).

Re claims 27, 36, 37: Rendleman et al. teaches an electronic gaming chip (figure 5 ; column 1, lines 10-20; column 2, lines 60-65). There is a transponder with identifying information thereon (column 2, lines 62-64; column 3, lines 32-35). There is (column 2, line 61

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to column 3, line 10) a 32 bit memory located on the transponder that includes (column 3, line 4) denominational value.

What Rendleman et al. fails to show is a second class of chip.

Busch et al. teaches (column 6, especially lines 1-10), “progressive chips” which are a separate category of chips. In at least one form (column 6, lines 20-30), these progressive / non-value chips are not the same as those used to place the standard bets.

In view of Busch et al.’s teaching, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to accommodate Rendleman et al.’s chip technology to Busch’s “progressive chips” because that way the house can have an easier time managing many complex side-bets.

Re claim 30: It is clear in Busch that in at least one embodiment the “progressive chips” appear distinct.

Re claims 31/32: In such electronic systems as that of Rendleman, et al. the playing area normally has readers to interact with the chips. See for example French (US 5,735,742, figure 3). Normally the use of any chip would be sensed by the table and this would include “progressive chips” as per the modification re claim 27. The table would know (fig. 3 of French) who placed the bet because each person has a position.

Re claims 33/34: Busch had noted that “progressive chips” can either have value or be valueless (column 6, lines 5-10). Any corresponding electronic chip would also have these two states.

Re claim 35: The promotional prize may be a jackpot, which is not a denomination, per se.

Re claim 38: The side bets (which is another term for what is happening with the “progressive chips” can be considered a bonus game occurring simultaneously.

Re claim 39: A side-bet jackpot can be considered a promotional prize for playing the game.

Re claim 40: In Busch et al., “progressive chips” may be separate from regular chips. The easiest way to do this is by making them distinct visually, which is a technically very easy step. The motive would be to keep people from becoming confused.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 21-26 are allowed.

Claims 28 and 29 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Each of the above claims deals includes or depends on a claim that includes, differentiation of chips that have essentially been grouped together by a user in a single bet. This is a change from prior art systems where the side-bets (i.e. the progressive bets) have been kept distinct by being kept in a separate pile. Having progressive bets and primary bets together in the same pile is something that has essentially only been enabled by the instant invention, as far as this examiner is aware.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Boiron (US 6,021,949) and Gassies et al. (US 5,895,321) are transponder-gambling-chips.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Daniel A Hess whose telephone number is (571) 272-2392. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM M-F.

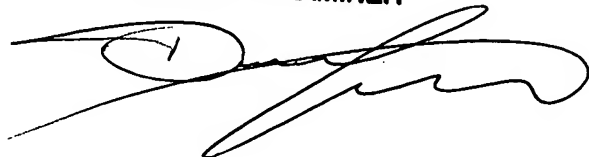
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael G Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Daniel A Hess
Examiner
Art Unit 2876

DH

**DANIEL STCYR
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DANIEL STCYR', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.